

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 31, and ending on page 9, line 3, with the following amended paragraph.

— *Lactobacilli* used for the method according to the present invention, i.e. *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21020, LMG P-21021, LMG P-21022 and LMG P-21023 and *Lactobacillus pentosus* LMG P-21019, are described in patent application MI2001A002202 referred to above; advantageously, according to the present invention, said *lactobacilli* are used in “activated” form as described in said application. The following microorganisms with the following accession numbers, *Lactobacillus pentosus* LMG P-21019, *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21020, *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21021, *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21022 and *Lactobacillus plantarum* LMG P-21023, have been accepted for deposit under the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the purpose of Patent Procedure (e.g. see 961 OG 21, 1977) and all restrictions on the availability to the public of the material so deposited will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent; the material was deposited on October 16, 2001 at the BCCM/LMG Bacteria Collection, Laboratorium voor Microbiologie, Universiteit Gent, K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.—

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 25-28, with the following amended paragraph.

— Thus, by way of example, for the method according to the invention the average dose to be used per quintal of fodder is of about 10 to 500 ml of the suspension referred to above, advantageously of about 100 ml. One quintal equals 100 kg. —